

Docket 60873
Serial No. 10/706,688

PATENT APPLICATION

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1 Claims 1-5 (canceled)

1 6. (currently amended) The A patient lifting apparatus ~~according to claim 5~~, further
2 comprising:

3 an upright member;

4 a boom mechanically associated with said upright member for conveying a patient from
5 one location to another;

6 a support structure for attaching said upright member to a bed frame, said support structure
7 being arranged to transfer torque from the lifting apparatus to the bed frame during
8 operation, said support structure comprising a lower support bar that extends across
9 the bed frame and has each of its ends fastened to a respective leg of the bed frame;
10 and

11 a telescoping foot member that extends from the lower support bar and is movable between
12 a stored position and an extended position for stabilizing the apparatus during use.

1 7. (currently amended) The patient lifting apparatus according to ~~claim 5~~ claim 6,
2 wherein said support structure further comprises an upper support bar that extends across the bed
3 frame and has each of its ends fastened to a respective side of the headboard of the bed frame.

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1 8. (original) The patient lifting apparatus according to claim 7, wherein said upper
2 support bar comprises a pair of clamps positioned at respective ends thereof for engaging the
3 respective sides of the headboard of the bed frame.

1 9. (currently amended) The patient lifting apparatus according to ~~claim 4~~ claim 6,
2 wherein said support structure comprises an upper bearing that allows smooth rotation of the
3 upright member relative to the bed frame, and a lower bearing that transfers the vertical force of
4 a patient's weight into the bed frame.

1 10. (currently amended) ~~The~~ A patient lifting apparatus according to ~~claim 1~~, further
2 comprising:

3 an upright member;

4 a boom mechanically associated with said upright member for conveying a patient from
5 one location to another;

6 a support structure for attaching said upright member to a bed frame, said support structure
7 being arranged to transfer torque from the lifting apparatus to the bed frame during
8 operation; and

9 a support arm mechanically associated with the upright member ~~that rotates~~ for rotating
10 said support arm along with the boom, said support arm being positioned to engage
11 and engages a floor to transfer the vertical force of a patient's weight into the floor.

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1 11. (currently amended) The patient lifting apparatus according to ~~claim 1~~ claim 6,
2 wherein said boom is pivotally mounted to said upright member for rotation about a generally
3 horizontal axis, and further comprising a linear actuator connected between said upright member
4 and said boom for raising and lowering said boom.

1 12. (currently amended) The patient lifting apparatus according to ~~claim 1~~ claim 6,
2 wherein said upright member is pivotal about a vertical axis, and further comprising an actuator
3 for rotating the upright member about said vertical axis to swing said boom in a side-to-side
4 movement.

1 13. (currently amended) The patient lifting apparatus according to ~~claim 1~~ claim 6,
2 wherein said boom is rigidly mounted to said upright member, and further comprising a winch
3 having a cable that hangs from a free end of said boom for lifting a patient.

1 Claims 14-15 (canceled)

1 16. (currently amended) The patient lifting apparatus according to ~~claim 15~~ claim
2 17, wherein:

3 said lower attachment system of the support structure comprises a lower support bar that
4 extends across the bed frame and has each of its ends fastened to a respective leg of
5 the bed frame.; and

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6 further comprising a telescoping foot member that extends from the lower support bar and
7 is movable between a stored position and an extended position for stabilizing the
8 apparatus during use.

1 17. (currently amended) ~~The~~ In combination, a bed frame and a patient lifting
2 apparatus according to claim 14, said bed frame comprising a plurality of legs and a headboard,
3 said patient lifting apparatus comprising:

4 an upright member;

5 a boom mechanically associated with said upright member for conveying a patient from
6 one location to another;

7 a support structure having an upper attachment system that secures the upright member to
8 the headboard, and a lower attachment system that secures the upright member to at
9 least one of the legs, said support structure being arranged to transfer torque from the
10 lifting apparatus into the bed frame during operation; and

11 wherein said upper attachment system of the support structure comprises an upper support
12 bar that extends across the bed frame and has each of its ends fastened to a respective
13 side of the headboard of the bed frame.

1 18. (currently amended) The patient lifting apparatus according to ~~claim 14~~ claim
2 17, wherein said upper attachment system comprises an upper bearing that allows smooth
3 rotation of the upright member relative to the bed frame, and said lower attachment system

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4 comprises a lower bearing that transfers the vertical force of a patient's weight into the bed
5 frame.

1 19. (currently amended) The patient lifting apparatus according to ~~claim 14~~ claim 17,
2 further comprising a support arm mechanically associated with the upright member that rotates
3 along with the boom about a generally vertical axis and engages a floor on which the bed is
4 supported to transfer the vertical force of a patient's weight into the floor via the support arm
5 rather than via the bed frame.

1 20. (canceled)